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Office Memorandum •

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

BERLIN

TO : (21) Mr. Hillenbrand

FROM : Bernard Gufler

SUBJECT: PAST TROUBLES OF GERMAN ANTI-COMMUNIST ORGANIZATIONS IN BERLIN

DATE: May 28, 1959

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Several of the leading personalities of anti-Communist organizations in Berlin, and the methods, aims and effect, have been the subject of criticism and scandal at various times, which were enthusiastically exploited by the Communist press. Some of the scandals culminated in trials which received wide publicity.

1. Kampfgruppe gegen Unmenschlichkeit (KgU) - Fighting Group Against Inhumanity. This organization, which was very active in exposing conditions in East Germany, was somewhat discredited first by the eccentricities of its original head, Rainer Hildebrandt, a mystic who finally required psychiatric treatment; and even more later by the alleged irresponsible activities of his successor, Ernst Tillich, who was widely criticized for instigating young people in the Soviet Zone to expose themselves to severe punishment by embarking on dangerous sabotage, espionage, and counter-espionage activities. The Berlin Telegraf was especially indignant when Tillich was invited to testify before the House Committee on Un-American Activities. Tillich was often described as a charlatan or worse.

Contributing to the downfall of the KgU was the hoodwinking in March, 1958, of the "counter-intelligence" chief of the organization, Baetz, by a female East German agent who enticed him to a rendezvous, drugged him and then relieved him of a secret list of the KgU's Soviet Zone informants. Several informants were allegedly arrested later in the Soviet Zone, according to press reports.

Minister for All-German Affairs Lemmer disavowed any connection with the KgU after this incident, and described the activities of the organization as "undesirable".

The coup de grace finally came with the trial last year of a West German journalist, "news marchand" Stefan, accused of calumny and pandering false information. He admitted selling fabricated stories to the KgU.

Tillich resigned from the KgU on April 24, 1958, and it was dissolved a few months later.

2. Untersuchungsausschuss Freier Juristen - Committee of Free Jurists. This much more responsible and useful organization has also been criticized, but not as widely or for the same reasons. Attacks against the organization's chairman, Dr. Theo Friedenau, in the East press, to the effect that he was masquerading under an assumed name (his real name being Horst Erdmann), was not

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entitled to use an academic title, and fraudulently obtained his license to practice law, led to an investigation by the West Berlin authorities into Friedenau's past. Although there was no trial because of lack of evidence, it was established that Friedenau had used the title of doctor improperly; it was proved that his title was not a prerequisite for his position in the organization or employment in it, but the accusation resulted in adverse publicity leading to his resignation. Although some professional and bureaucratic individuals were indignant at Friedenau's improper use of a professional title, and this may have tended to prejudice them against the Free Jurists as a whole, it is believed that, unlike the KGU, the Free Jurists have a good reputation in the eyes of most West Berliners.

In August, 1958, the Free Jurists again received wide, but not unfavorable, publicity when the deputy chief of the organization's anti-Communist investigating committee, Dr. Erwin Neumann, disappeared while boating on the Wannsee in West Berlin near the Soviet Zone border. No trace of him has been found since then and it is assumed that he may have been kidnapped, as was his predecessor, Dr. Walter Linse, in 1952.

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